

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the buffer portion is in a ring shape.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

27. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

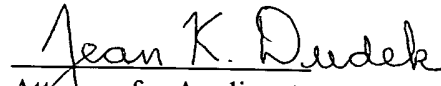
28. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to any of claims 22 to 27, wherein the electric contact ~~point~~ member is in a linear shape.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 9, and 22 being independent. The specification, claims, and abstract are amended herein to improve their form. It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicants' attorney, Gary M. Jacobs, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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